IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the previous claims with the following claims:

1-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

dividing said bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth;

allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to high priority level programs in each category; and

continuing said allocating step with progressively lower priority levels programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of said programs are allocated, and

all of said bandwidth is allocated.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of prioritizing uses an algorithm to weigh programs watched information when determining a program's priority.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of prioritizing uses an algorithm to weigh marketing information when determining a program's priority.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the high priority level corresponds to

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programs included in one cable television service and a lower priority level corresponds to programs included in a different cable television service.

13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein each priority level includes a different set of programs from a variety of categories, and wherein the high priority level includes a first finite number of programs from each of the plurality of categories and a lower priority level includes a second finite number of different programs from each of the plurality of categories.

14. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the high priority level corresponds to cable television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to pay-per-view programs.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein an even lower priority level corresponds to high definition television programs.

16. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the high priority level corresponds to sports-related television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to news-related television programs.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein an even lower priority level corresponds to documentaries.

18. (original) A method of transmitting a plurality of programs to a cable headend, each of said plurality of programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

forming a plurality of signals, each of said signals comprising programs corresponding to a single priority level;

appending a header to each of said signals, wherein said header identifies said

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priority level for a corresponding signal, thereby enabling recognition by said cable headend;

dividing bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth;

allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to signals comprising high priority level programs in each category;

continuing said allocating step with signals comprising progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of the signals are allocated; and

all of said bandwidth is allocated; and

transmitting each of said headers and said corresponding signals to said cable headend.

19 (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of

digitizing each of said headers and said corresponding signals into digitized signals;

compressing the digitized signals into compressed signals, and

combining the compressed signals with a program information signal.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to programs included in a cable television service and a lower priority level corresponds to programs included in a different cable television service.

21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein each priority level includes a different set of programs from a variety of categories, and wherein the first priority level includes a first finite number of programs from each of the plurality of categories and the second priority level includes a second finite number of remaining programs from each of the plurality of categories.

22. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to cable television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to pay-per-view programs.

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23. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to sports-related television programs and a lower priority level corresponds to news-related television programs.

24. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the high priority level corresponds to television programs available during a specified period of time and a lower priority level corresponds to television programs available during a different period of time.

25. (original) A method of transmitting programs to a plurality of transponders, said method comprising the steps of:

prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

forming a plurality of signals, each of said signals comprising programs corresponding to a single priority level;

allocating a portion of bandwidth to signals comprising high priority level programs;

continuing said allocating step with signals comprising progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of the signals are allocated; and

all of said bandwidth is allocated; and

transmitting said plurality of signals to said plurality of transponders so that none of said transponders receives more than one of said signals.

26-27. (canceled)

28. (original) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of appending a header to each of said signals, wherein said header identifies said priority level for a corresponding signal, thereby enabling recognition by said transponder.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

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digitizing each of said headers and said corresponding signals into digitized signals;

compressing the digitized signals into compressed signals; and

combining the compressed signals with a program information signal.

30. (original) The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of dynamically changing bandwidth allocation for at least one of said signals.

31. (currently amended) A method of transmitting a plurality of programs in a first amount of bandwidth for reception by a first cable headend, and in a second amount of bandwidth for a second cable headend, said method comprising the steps of:

prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

allocating said first amount of bandwidth to high priority level programs in each category;

continuing said first amount of bandwidth allocation step with said progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of the programs are allocated[[;]] and

all of said first amount of bandwidth is allocated;

allocating said second amount of bandwidth to high priority level programs in each category;

continuing said second amount of bandwidth allocation step with said progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of the programs are allocated[[;]] and

all of said second amount of bandwidth is allocated;

transmitting the programs in said first amount of bandwidth to said first cable headend; and

transmitting the programs in said second amount of bandwidth to said second cable headend.

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32.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

33.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

34.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

35.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

36.   (currently amended) A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:
        dividing said bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth;
        selecting specific programs received from television programming sources;
        allocating a segment of the bandwidth to the specifically selected programs; and
        continuing said allocating step with additional selected programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:
                all of said programs are allocated, and
                all of said bandwidth is allocated;
        wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time, and wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

37.   (currently amended) A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs,

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each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing said bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth;

selecting specific programs received from television programming sources;

allocating a segment of the bandwidth to the specifically selected programs; and

continuing said allocating step with additional selected programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of said programs are allocated, and

all of said bandwidth is allocated;

wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time, and wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within one of the selected programs over time.

38.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

39.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

40.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes varying the compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

41.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

42.   (previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein said changes

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occur frame to frame.

43. (previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

44. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

48. (previously presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

49. (previously presented) The method according to claim 159, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation induces varying a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs.

50. (previously presented) The method according to claim 159, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

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51. (previously presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

53-60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) A computer assisted packaging system for generating program control information, packaging programs and for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said plurality of programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said system comprising:

a multiplexer for receiving at least one program signal and at least one program control signal and for allocating a portion of segments of bandwidth to selected programs;

a delivery control processor unit connected to said multiplexer, whereby wherein said delivery control processor unit controls the multiplexing of program signals and said program control signals are multiplexed by said multiplexer; and

a central processing unit connected to said delivery control processor unit, whereby wherein said delivery control processor unit receives commands from said central processing unit, and wherein said central processing unit divides said bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth.

62. (previously presented) The system according to claim 61, further comprising at least one workstation connected to said central processing unit for allowing a packager or programmer to interface with said computer assisted packaging system.

63. (previously presented) The system according to claim 61, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

64. (previously presented) The system according to claim 63, wherein said

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video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

65.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 63, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

66.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 65, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

67.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 65, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

68.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 61, further comprising at least one database connected to said central processing unit, whereby said central processing unit processes information within each of said databases.

69.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 68, wherein said at least one database further comprises an operations center database.

70.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 68, wherein said at least one database further comprises a cable franchise information database.

71.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 68, wherein said at least one database further comprises a local video storage database.

72.   (currently amended) A computer assisted packaging system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of the programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

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a central processing unit for selecting programs received from television programming sources;

a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit; and

a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to said selected programs and continuing to allocate segments of bandwidth until either all the programs are allocated bandwidth or all the bandwidth is allocated,

wherein said central processing unit divides said bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of said bandwidth.

73.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 72, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

74.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 73, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

75.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 73, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

76.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 75, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

77.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 75, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

78.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 72, wherein said central

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processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

79.   (previously presented) A computer assisted packaging system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of the programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

a central processing unit for selecting the programs and also for dividing the bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth;

a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit; and

a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to the selected programs in at least one of the categories.

80.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 79, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

81.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 80, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes the bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

82.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 80, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

83.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 82, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

84.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 82, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

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85. (previously presented) The system according to claim 79, wherein said central processing unit dynamically changes the bandwidth by varying a number of the selected programs within at least one of the selected categories.

86. (previously presented) The system according to claim 79, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

87. (previously presented) A computer assisted packaging system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs according to claim 79, wherein said central processing unit further assigns priority levels to the programs by assigning to each of said programs a priority level from a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels includes a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels and also for dividing the bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of the bandwidth; and

said multiplexer further allocates a portion of said segments of bandwidth to selected programs in each of the categories with highest of said priority levels and continues to allocate segments of bandwidth to progressively lower priority level programs in each of the categories.

88. (previously presented) The system according to claim 87, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

89. (previously presented) The system according to claim 88, wherein said video/audio equipment changes the bandwidth allocation over time by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

90. (previously presented) The system according to claim 88, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth

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to at least one of the select ~d programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

91. (previously presented) The system according to claim 90, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

92. (previously presented) The system according to claim 90, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

93. (previously presented) The system according to claim 87, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for assigning said priority levels.

94. (previously presented) The system according to claim 87, wherein said central processing unit appends a header to all the selected programs with the same priority level, wherein said appended header identifies said priority level for the program.

95. (currently amended) A system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

an operations center comprising a computer assisted packaging system;

said computer assisted packaging system comprising:

a central processing unit for selecting programs received from television programming sources and also for dividing said bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth;

a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit; and

a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to the selected programs.

96. (previously presented) The system according to claim 95, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time:.

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97.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 96, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

98.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 96, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

99.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 98, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

100.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 98, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

101.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 95, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

102.   (previously presented) The system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs according to claim 95, wherein said central processing unit also divides the bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth.

103.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 102, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

104.   (previously presented) The system according to claim 103, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of at least one of the selected programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs

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with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

105. (previously presented) The system according to claim 103, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

106. (previously presented) The system according to claim 105, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

107. (previously presented) The system according to claim 105, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

108. (previously presented) The system according to claim 102, wherein said central processing unit dynamically changes bandwidth by varying a number of selected programs within at least one of the selected categories.

109. (previously presented) The system according to claim 102, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for selecting said programs.

110. (previously presented) A system for allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, comprising:

an operations center comprising a computer assisted packaging system;

said computer assisted packaging system comprising:

a central processing unit for assigning priority levels to the programs by assigning to each of the programs a priority level from a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels includes a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels and also for dividing the bandwidth so that each program category receives a segment of the bandwidth;

a delivery control processor unit connected to said central processing unit;

and

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a multiplexer connected to said delivery control processor unit for allocating a portion of said segments of bandwidth to the programs in each of the categories with highest of said priority levels and continuing to allocate said segments of bandwidth to progressively lower priority level programs in each of the categories.

111. (previously presented) The system according to claim 110, further comprising a video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time.

112. (previously presented) The system according to claim 111, wherein said video/audio equipment dynamically changes bandwidth allocation by changing a compression ratio of each of the programs, whereby programs with higher compression ratios require lower bit rates and less bandwidth, and programs with lower compression ratios require higher bit rates and more bandwidth.

113. (previously presented) The system according to claim 111, wherein the step of dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time includes allocating bandwidth to at least one of the selected programs based on an amount of changes within at least one of the selected programs over time.

114. (previously presented) The system according to claim 113, wherein said changes occur frame to frame.

115. (previously presented) The system according to claim 113, wherein said changes are changes in visual detail.

116. (previously presented) The system according to claim 110, wherein said central processing unit further comprises an algorithm for assigning said priority levels.

117. (previously presented) The system according to claim 110, wherein said central processing unit appends a header to all the selected programs with the same priority level, wherein said appended header identifies said priority level for the program.

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118. (previously presented) The system according to claim 117, further comprising at least one cable headend, wherein each of said cable headends receives said programs from said operations center according to said assigned headers.

119. (previously presented) The system according to claim 110, further comprising at least one transponder for receiving programs for one of said assigned priority levels from said operations center.

120. (previously presented) The system according to claim 119, further comprising at least one cable headend, wherein each of said cable headends receives said programs from at least one of said transponders according to said assigned priority levels.

121. (previously presented) The system according to claim 119, further comprising at least one cable headend and at least one transponder, wherein each of said cable headends receives said programs from said transponders according to customized priority.

122. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of prioritizing uses an algorithm to weigh consumer demand when determining a program's priority.

123. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

124. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

125. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

126. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

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127.   (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

128.   (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

129.   (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed on demand.

130.   (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed based on consumer demand.

131.   (previously presented) The method of claim 159, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed in real-time.

132.   (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed on demand.

133.   (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed based on consumer demand.

134.   (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed in real-time.

135.   (currently amended) A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting programs received from television programming sources;

dividing said bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth; and

allocating bandwidth to the categories from whence the selected programs

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correspond, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time for at least one of the categories of programming, and wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed on demand.

136. (currently amended) A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting programs received from television programming sources;

dividing said bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth; and

allocating bandwidth to the categories from whence the selected programs correspond, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time for at least one of the categories of programming, and wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed based on consumer demand.

137. (currently amended) A method of allocating bandwidth to a plurality of programs, each of said programs corresponding to one of a plurality of categories, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting programs received from television programming sources;

dividing said bandwidth so that each of the program categories receives a segment of the bandwidth; and

allocating bandwidth to the categories from whence the selected programs correspond, wherein said step of allocating includes dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation over time for at least one of the categories of programming, and wherein said bandwidth allocation is dynamically changed in real-time.

138. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

139. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the

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bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

140. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

141. (previously presented) The system of claim 72, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

142. (previously presented) The system of claim 72, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

143. (previously presented) The system of claim 72, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

144. (previously presented) The system of claim 79, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

145. (previously presented) The system of claim 79, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

146. (previously presented) The system of claim 79, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

147. (previously presented) The method of claim 87, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the

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bandwidth allocation on demand.

148. (previously presented) The system of claim 87, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

149. (previously presented) The system of claim 87, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

150. (previously presented) The system of claim 95, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

151. (previously presented) The system of claim 95, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

152. (previously presented) The system of claim 95, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

153. (previously presented) The system of claim 102, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

154. (previously presented) The system of claim 102, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

155. (previously presented) The system of claim 102, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the

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bandwidth allocation.

156. (previously presented) The system of claim 110, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation on demand.

157. (previously presented) The system of claim 110, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation based on consumer demand.

158. (previously presented) The system of claim 110, further comprising video/audio equipment connected to said central processing unit for dynamically changing the bandwidth allocation in real-time.

159. (previously presented) A method of transmitting programs to a plurality of transponders, said method comprising the steps of:

prioritizing each of said programs by assigning to each of said programs one of a plurality of priority levels, said plurality of priority levels including a high priority level and progressively lower priority levels;

forming a plurality of signals, each of said signals comprising programs corresponding to a single priority level;

allocating a portion of bandwidth to signals comprising high priority level programs;

dynamically changing bandwidth allocation for at least one of said signals;

continuing said allocating step with signals comprising progressively lower priority level programs until at least one of the following conditions occurs:

all of the signals are allocated; and

all of said bandwidth is allocated; and

transmitting said plurality of signals to said plurality of transponders so that none of said transponders receives more than one of said signals.